

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]5, wherein the network is a wide area network.
3. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]8, wherein the central server includes at least one expert prescription system.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The A centralized management system of claim 4 for medical devices, comprising:
a network;
a central server coupled to the network and including at least one prescription system for prescribing at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based upon at least one characteristic of a patient; and
a medical device programmer coupled to the network and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one programmable parameter from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter,
wherein the central server includes a plurality of expert prescription systems, each defined by an expert to prescribe at least one parameter of a medical device based on at least one characteristic of a patient, and
wherinc at least one of the central server and medical device programmer is configured to allow a user to select one of the plurality of expert prescription systems for prescribing the at least one parameter.

6. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]5, wherein the central server includes at least one custom prescription system.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The A centralized management system of claim 7 for medical devices, comprising:

a network;

a central server coupled to the network and including at least one prescription system for prescribing at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based upon at least one characteristic of a patient; and

a medical device programmer coupled to the network and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one programmable parameter from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter

wherein the central server includes a plurality of custom prescription systems, each defined by a user to prescribe at least one parameter of a medical device based on at least one characteristic of a patient, and

wherein at least one of the central server and medical device programmer is configured to allow a user to use only a custom prescription system defined by that user from among the custom prescription systems.

9. (Currently Amended) The A centralized management system of claim 1 for medical devices, comprising:

a network;

a central server coupled to the network and including at least one prescription system for prescribing at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based upon at least one characteristic of a patient; and

a medical device programmer coupled to the network and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one

programmable parameter from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter,

wherein the central server includes at least one expert prescription system and at least one custom prescription system, and at least one of the central server and the medical device programmer is configured to allow a user to select one of the expert and custom prescription systems.

10. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]9, wherein the medical device programmer is configured to program an implantable medical device.

11. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]9, wherein the medical device programmer includes an interface to receive signals from at least one user input device that represent at least one of the at least one characteristic of the patient.

12. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]5, wherein the medical device programmer includes an interface to receive signals from a patient monitoring system that represent at least one of the at least one characteristic of the patient.

13. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]8, wherein the medical device programmer includes an interface to receive signals from a patient records computer system that represent at least one of the at least one characteristic of the patient.

14. (Currently Amended) The centralized management system of claim [[1]]9, wherein the medical device programmer includes an interface to receive signals from the medical device that represent at least one of the at least one characteristic of the patient.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The central server of claim [[15]]19, wherein the network interface is configured for communicating over a wide area network.

17. (Currently Amended) The central server of claim [[15]]22, wherein the at least one prescription system includes at least one expert prescription system.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A The central server of claim 18 for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating with a medical device programmer over a network; and

at least one prescription system coupled to the network interface, each configured to receive at least one characteristic of a patient from the medical device programmer via the network, to prescribe at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based on the at least one characteristic of the patient, and to transmit the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device to the medical device programmer via the network,

wherein the at least one prescription system includes a plurality of expert prescription systems, each defined by an expert to prescribe at least one parameter of a medical device based on at least one characteristic of a patient, and

wherein one of the plurality of expert prescription systems is selectable by a user for prescribing the at least one parameter.

20. (Currently Amended) The central server of claim [[15]]19, wherein the at least one prescription system includes at least one custom prescription system.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A The central server of claim 21 for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating with a medical device programmer over a network; and

at least one prescription system coupled to the network interface, each configured to receive at least one characteristic of a patient from the medical device programmer via the network, to prescribe at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based on the at least one characteristic of the patient, and to transmit the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device to the medical device programmer via the network,

wherein the at least one prescription system includes a plurality of custom prescription systems, each defined by a user to prescribe at least one parameter of a medical device based on at least one characteristic of a patient, and

wherein only a custom prescription system defined by a user is employable by that user from among the custom prescription systems.

23. (Currently Amended) A The central server of claim 15 for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating with a medical device programmer over a network; and

at least one prescription system coupled to the network interface, each configured to receive at least one characteristic of a patient from the medical device programmer via the network, to prescribe at least one programmable parameter of a medical device based on the at least one characteristic of the patient, and to transmit the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device to the medical device programmer via the network,

wherein the at least one prescription system includes at least one expert prescription system and at least one custom prescription system, and one of the expert and custom prescription systems is selectable by a user.

24. (Currently Amended) The central server of claim [[15]]23, wherein the at least one prescription system is configured to prescribe at least one parameter of an implantable medical device.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]~~27~~, wherein the network interface is configured for communicating with the central server over a wide area network.

27. (Currently Amended) The A medical device programmer of claim 25, further for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating over a network with at least one prescription system residing on a central server;

a medical device interface for communicating with a medical device;

a processor coupled to the network interface and the medical device interface, and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device via the medical device interface; and

an input device interface for receiving an input signal from a user that selects one of a plurality of expert prescription systems hosted by the central server to prescribe the at least one parameter.

28. (Currently Amended) The A medical device programmer of claim 25, further for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating over a network with at least one prescription system residing on a central server;

a medical device interface for communicating with a medical device;

a processor coupled to the network interface and the medical device interface, and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device via the medical device interface; and

an input device interface for receiving an input signal from a user that selects a user-defined custom prescription system hosted by the central server to prescribe the at least one parameter.

29. (Currently Amended) The A medical device programmer of claim 25, further for use in a centralized management system for medical devices, comprising:

a network interface for communicating over a network with at least one prescription system residing on a central server;

a medical device interface for communicating with a medical device;

a processor coupled to the network interface and the medical device interface, and configured to communicate at least one characteristic of a patient to the central server via the network, to receive at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device from the central server via the network, and to program the medical device using the at least one prescribed programmable parameter of the medical device via the medical device interface; and

an input device interface for receiving an input signal from a user that selects one of an expert prescription system and a custom prescription system hosted by the central server.

30. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]27, wherein the medical device interface is for communicating with an implantable medical device.

31. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]28, further comprising a user input device interface to receive signals from at least one user input device that represent at least one patient characteristic for communication to the central server.

32. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]29, further comprising a patient monitoring system interface to receive signals from a patient monitoring system that represent at least one patient characteristic for communication to the central server.

33. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]27, further comprising a patient records computer system interface to receive signals from a patient records

computer system that represent at least one patient characteristic for communication to the central server.

34. (Currently Amended) The medical device programmer of claim [[25]]28, wherein signals received from the medical device via the medical device interface represent at least one patient characteristic for communication to the central server.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]42, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the patient at the programmer includes receiving signals from a user input device.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]44, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the patient at the programmer includes receiving signals from a patient monitoring system.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]45, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the patient at the programmer includes receiving signals from a patient records system.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]42, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the patient at the programmer includes receiving signals from the medical device.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]44, wherein communicating the at least one characteristic to the central server and communicating the at least one programmable parameter to the programmer each includes communicating over a wide area network.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]45, wherein determining the at least one programmable parameter includes using an expert prescription system hosted by the central server.

42. (Currently Amended) The A method of programming a programmable medical device claim 35, comprising:

determining at least one characteristic of a patient at a programmer;

communicating the at least one characteristic to a central server;

determining at least one programmable parameter for a medical device based on the at least one characteristic using a prescription system hosted by the central server;

communicating the at least one programmable parameter to the programmer; and

programming the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter,

wherein the central server hosts a plurality of expert prescription systems defined by a plurality of experts, further comprising querying the user to determine which of the expert prescription systems to use.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]42, wherein determining the at least one programmable parameter includes using a custom prescription system hosted by the central server.

44. (Currently Amended) The A method of programming a programmable medical device claim 35, comprising:

determining at least one characteristic of a patient at a programmer;

communicating the at least one characteristic to a central server;

determining at least one programmable parameter for a medical device based on the at least one characteristic using a prescription system hosted by the central server;

communicating the at least one programmable parameter to the programmer; and

programming the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter, wherein

the central server hosts a plurality of custom prescription systems, further comprising giving a

user access to only a custom prescription system defined by that user from among the custom prescription systems.

45. (Currently Amended) The A method of programming a programmable medical device claim 35, comprising:

determining at least one characteristic of a patient at a programmer;
communicating the at least one characteristic to a central server;
determining at least one programmable parameter for a medical device based on the at
least one characteristic using a prescription system hosted by the central server;
communicating the at least one programmable parameter to the programmer; and
programming the medical device using the at least one programmable parameter,

wherein the central server hosts at least one expert prescription system and at least one custom prescription system, further comprising querying the user to determine which of the hosted prescription systems to use.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[35]]44, wherein the medical device is an implantable medical device.

47. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the network includes the Internet.

48. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the network includes the Internet.

49. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the network includes the Internet.

50. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the network includes the Internet.

51. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the network includes the Internet.

52. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the network includes the Internet.

53. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the network includes the Internet.

54. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the network includes the Internet.

55. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the network includes the Internet.